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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to urge you to NOT approve the petition submitted by the US Telecom Association. This petition will decrease available choices for telecommunication services and, thereby, increase the cost of those services.

We have recently switched from AT&T to a local provider and are receiving better service (internet and phone) for less money! While the technical side remains the same, for AT&T controls the copper line and the dynamics of what happens on that line, it is a night and day difference in the customer service interface. (AT&T=horrible vs. LMI=wonderful).

Our lives are increasingly more dependent on telecom and this move by the US Telecom Association is simply an effort to increase their profits at our expense. It is deplorable how telecom in the USA is so limited in the broadband speed received for what you pay, in comparison to Europe! This petition will only entrench this disparity deeper.

I look forward to receiving fiber service in the near future and resent the ramifications of what this US Telecom Association petition portends. The FCC should operate in the service of the American people, not facilitate the financial exploitation of them. Please uphold the 1996 Telecommunications Act and deny this petition.

Skip Roache